

CLAIMS:

1. An information processing device for user selectably presenting information, comprising flow zone means (201) for displaying a flow zone (102) comprising flowing links (103) to respective information units, and information selection means (202) for presenting a selected information unit in response to a user selecting a link in the flow zone.

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2. A device as defined in claim 1, the flow zone means comprising user operable flow control means (203) for controlling the flow speed and/or flow direction of the flowing links (103).

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3. A device as defined in claim 2, the flow control means (203) comprising user operable point-and-select means (204) for selecting a location within the flow zone, the flow control means being arranged to stop the flow in response to the user statically selecting a location within the flow zone.

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4. A device as defined in claim 3, the flow control means (203) being arranged to increase the flow speed in response to the user selecting a location and dragging said location in the flow direction.

5. A device as defined in any one of the claims 2 to 4, the flow control (203) means being arranged to reverse the flow direction in response to the user selecting a location and dragging said location against the flow direction.

6. A device as defined in any one of the claims 2 to 5, the flow zone means (201) being arranged to alternately display links (103) and flow control areas (104), the selection of a location for controlling the flow being restricted to said flow control areas.

7. A device as defined in any one of the claims 1 to 6, the device being further arranged to display a selected information unit in a presentation zone (106), the information

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selection means (202) being arranged to select the information unit in response to the user selecting a link of the flow zone (102) and dragging it to the presentation zone.

8. A device as defined in any one of the claims 1 to 7, the device further comprising filtering means (206) comprising user selectable filters (105) for controlling the flow zone (102) to display only links to information units which meet a requirement imposed by a selected filter.

9. A device as defined in claim 8, the filtering means (206) being arranged to adapt the selected filter so as to display links to information units similar to the selected information unit.

10. A device as defined in any one of the claims 1 to 9, the device further comprising user-link means (207) for maintaining a plurality of preferred user-links and displaying said user-links in a further zone (110).

11. A device as defined in claim 10, the device further comprising means (208, 113) for communicating with a user supplied data carrier for storing and/or retrieving said user-links.

12. A device as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the frequency of display of an information unit in the flow zone is determined by its age and/or popularity.

13. A table comprising a device as defined in any one of the claims 1 to 12.

14. A device as defined in any one of the claims 2 to 12, the flow control means (203) being arranged to control the flow of at least a subset of the flowing links in accordance with a relocation of the device, said subset of the flowing links being anchored to a specific location.

15. A device as defined in claim 14, said device being a portable device.

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Sub A4 7 16. A system for user selectably presenting information, comprising devices as defined in any one of claims 1 to 14, and a data carrier for transporting user-links between said devices.

5 17. A computer program product enabling a general purpose computer, when executing said computer program product, to function as a device as defined in any one of the claims 1 to 14.

18. A data carrier for use in a system as defined in claim 16.

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